

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RONALD J. TENPAS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

JUNE 23, 2004

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that EDWARD J. TROBER and MICHAEL R. PEYLA were arrested on federal drug charges.

A Federal Grand Jury sitting in East St. Louis, Illinois, indicted TROBER and PEYLA in a Suppressed Indictment on June 22, 2004. TROBER, age 55, of 3082 Keebler Road, Collinsville, Illinois, and PEYLA, age 56, of 7303 West Main, Maryville, Illinois, were charged with conspiracy to distribute 1,000 kilograms or more of marihuana, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846. The violation took place from 1994 to May 4, 2003, in Madison County, Illinois, and elsewhere. An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of charges until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

TROBER and PEYLA were also named in a forfeiture count seeking forfeiture of 20 million dollars in cash, eight parcels of real estate, 13 vehicles, and a bank account in TROBER's name in The Bank of Edwardsville.

This case was investigated as part of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force. Participating agencies included the Drug Enforcement Administration, Internal Revenue Services, and Illinois State Police. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Ralph M. Friederich and Michael Thompson.